

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a replacement claim set.

1. (previously presented) A support for mounting on a wheel rim inside a vehicle tire, the support being capable of supporting a tire in the event of a drop in inflation pressure, wherein the support is an article having a composition consisting essentially of rubber, from 5 to 70 parts of a metal salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid based on 100 parts of the rubber, from 0 to 120 parts of a filler based on 100 parts of the rubber, and from 0 to 2.5 parts of sulfur based on 100 parts of the rubber, wherein the composition is cured with a peroxide curing agent.
2. (original) A wheel comprising the support of claim 1.
3. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein the rubber is comprised of a dienic unsaturated elastomer.
4. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein the rubber is comprised of a rubber selected from the group consisting of copolymers of butyl acrylonitrile and copolymers of butyl paramethyl styrene.
5. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein the rubber is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, styrene-butadiene rubber, and mixtures thereof.
6. (currently amended) The support of claim 1, wherein the metal salt(s) is selected from the group consisting of di- and tri-acrylates and methacrylates and mixtures thereof.
7. (previously presented) The support of claim 1, wherein the metal salt of the unsaturated carboxylic acid is zinc dimethacrylate.

8. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein the peroxide is selected from the group consisting of di-cumyl peroxide, bis-(tert-butyl peroxy)-diisopropyl benzene, t-butyl perbenzoate, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di-tert-butylperoxide hexane and mixtures thereof.
9. (previously presented) The support of claim 1, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, silica, aluminas, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum silicate, clays, calcium carbonate, glass fibers, microspheres, polymeric fibers, and mixtures thereof.
10. (cancelled)
11. (previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein the filler is present in an amount from 0 to 60 parts per hundred parts by weight of the rubber.
- 12-15. (cancelled)
- 16 (currently amended) The support of claim 1, comprising from 10 to 60 parts of the metal salt of [[an]] the unsaturated carboxylic acid per hundred parts by weight of rubber.
17. (currently amended) The support of claim 1, comprising from 20 to 50 parts of the metal salt of [[an]] the unsaturated carboxylic acid per hundred parts by weight of rubber.
18. (currently amended) The support of claim 9, comprising from 20 to 120 parts of silica and carbon black, in any ratio, per hundred parts by weight of rubber.
19. (currently amended) The support of claim 1, comprising from 0 to 80% by weight of polybutadiene.
20. (currently amended) The support of claim 1, comprising from 20 to 100% by weight of natural rubber.

21. (currently amended) A support intended to be mounted on a wheel rim inside of a tire for supporting the tire tread in case of a loss of inflation pressure, comprising:

- (a) a generally cylindrical base intended to fit around the rim;
- (b) a generally cylindrical crown intended to come into contact with the interior of the tire tread in the event of a loss of inflation pressure, but leaving a clearance from the tire tread interior at nominal pressure;
- (c) an annular body connecting the base and the crown, the annular body including a circumferentially continuous support member having a circumferential median plane; and
- (d) the support member including a plurality of partitions extending axially on both sides of the circumferential median plane and distributed about the circumference of the support member, and connecting members extending generally circumferentially and joining the two laterally adjacent ends of the circumferentially adjacent partitions, the connecting members being successively arranged alternatively on both sides of the partitions; and

wherein the composition of the support consists essentially of the cured product of rubber, from 5 to 70 parts of a metal salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid based on 100 parts of the rubber, from 0 to 120 parts of a filler based on 100 parts of the rubber, and from 0 to 2.5 parts of sulfur based on 100 parts of the rubber, wherein the composition is cured with a peroxide curing agent.